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Letter dated 13 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the memorial report of the Institute for Disarmament and Peace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued on 12 August 2015 on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of Korea's liberation (see annex).

The report illustrates the realistic and scientific validity and vitality of the ideas on independent reunification of the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un and clarifies that the independent reunification of Korea based on these ideas is the cornerstone of ensuring peace and prosperity in North-East Asia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Independent reunification of Korea: the cornerstone of ensuring peace and prosperity in North-East Asia

Memorial report of the Institute for Disarmament and Peace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPRK

Seventy years have passed since our Korean nation was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' occupation. However, the 70-year period is also a history of national division forced by the US.

During the long period of time, when two or more generations have shifted, our nation, divided into two, has been suffering from unprecedented misery and pain.

In those decades, the world has made tremendous advances, and the times have undergone dramatic changes.

At the time of our national division, colonies and semi-colonies accounted for more than half of the world. However, those countries achieved national independence one after another, and the tendency towards independence, opposing domination and subordination, became the main trend of the world's development.

The cold war between the East and the West, which started at the time of our national division, ended before half a century had elapsed and the "sole super-Power" entered a decline.

Today, even in Asia, North-East Asia finds itself becoming more important in terms of politics, the economy and military.

Geopolitically, North-East Asia is a sensitive region, since the big Powers face each other, and the Korean Peninsula, divided by the US, stands in the middle of it. This makes the region an unparalleled yet highly explosive powder magazine in the world.

Considering the military concentration and the abundant economic potential of the region, North-East Asia is likely to touch off a third world war. On the other hand, the region can also serve as a foothold for preventing an outbreak of a new world war and for propelling world prosperity in the twenty-first century.

Whether North-East Asia will provide a detonating fuse for a new world war or a locomotive engine affecting world prosperity is dependent on the settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue.

The Korean Peninsula issue is, in essence, an issue of reunification. The future of the Korean Peninsula and North-East Asia is dependent on the independent reunification of our nation.

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland, the Institute for Disarmament and Peace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK issues this memorial report to illustrate the scientific accuracy,

validity and vitality of the ideas on independent reunification of the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un.

I. Independence: a guarantee of reunification

The national division of Korea, against the nation's will, was forced by the outside forces.

At the time Korea was liberated, the US came up with a proposal that it should disarm the Japanese Army stationed south of the 38th parallel, and the then Soviet Union, which had entered the anti-Japanese war, agreed to the US proposal, thus separating the Peninsula into two parts.

The US occupied south Korea and established a military Administration to suppress all the patriotic forces desiring the coordinated and balanced development of the Korean nation. The US hastily fabricated a separate puppet regime, thus fixing the country's division.

Thus Korea, although it was neither a war provoker nor a defeated nation like Germany, faced new misery and pain right after its liberation. Behind these facts lie the interests of outside forces, which had been keeping their eyes on the geopolitical value of the Peninsula.

Historically, the Korean Peninsula had been considered an unparalleled and ideal bridgehead to gain a foothold on the continent by those naval Powers that dreamed of aggression on the continent.

The US, a naval force across the Pacific Ocean, dreaming of world hegemony, had a desire to swallow up the whole Korean Peninsula, the eastern bridgehead of the Eurasian continent. But the US could not rival the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and the Red Army of the Soviet Union, which were moving southward, rapidly crushing the Japanese Army.

Under these circumstances, the US hastened to draw a line arbitrarily on the Peninsula, totally ignoring the will and interests of the Korean nation, in order to gain at least half of the Korean Peninsula; the line was the thirty-eighth parallel. Five years later, in 1950, the US, filled with ambition to bring the whole Korean Peninsula under its control, provoked a war of aggression.

The US, having been rolled back to its original place after a humiliating defeat in the Korean War, started full-scale work to transform south Korea into an outpost for aggression against the DPRK and the continent.

However, the US ambition of aggression could not be realized, as the defence capability and war deterrence of the DPRK strengthened day by day, thanks to the line of simultaneously pushing forward the development of the economy and defence, put forward by the great President Kim Il Sung in the 1960s, and the Songun politics of our Great Leaders. The political and military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula has been protracted for a long time.

The DPRK Government and people have made strenuous efforts to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, but these efforts have been doggedly blocked by the US, the practical ruler of south Korea.

It was the US strategic calculation that Korea should not be reunified peacefully on no account until the outbreak of the second Korean war, which was under its preparation.

This is the main cause of our national division that has been prolonged for 70 years.

It is none other than the outside forces that have gained interests in national division for the last 70 years, just like fishing in troubled waters.

It is the outside forces that battened on arms deals and justified their arms build-up for aggression on the continent under the pretext of tension and confrontation between the north and the south, which has been instigated and aggravated by the outside forces. It is also the outside forces that have risen as an "economic giant" from a defeated nation by exploiting the imbalanced development of the divided Korean nation and now dream of reaggression by revitalizing militarism.

There are also some outside forces that are keen on their own interests, while giving lip service to the improvement of inter-Korean relations and keeping a foot in both camps. There are also some other kinds of outside forces that pursue their own interests while acting as if they are benefactors ready to grant a request from one side.

The antagonism and confrontation, rather than reconciliation and cooperation, between the north and the south provide more profit to the outside forces.

Since the neighbouring outside forces around the Korean Peninsula seek different interests in the Korean Peninsula, their attitudes towards the north and the south are naturally different. Some of them, besieged by an ideological confrontation mindset, have been continuously hostile to the DPRK from the first day of national division, and some have shared the history of shedding blood in the same trenches against the Japanese and the American imperialists.

Some outside forces blindly support the unilateral proposal for "reunification of systems", initiated by south Korea, while others maintain dubious attitudes even towards the reunification formula agreed upon by both the north and the south.

Therefore, it is quite clear that the future of the Korean nation will be ruined by outside forces, and Korea will fall victim to a struggle among the outside forces if they are allowed to meddle in national reunification.

Independence is equal to reunification. Independence is the core principle, means and guarantee for reunification. This is the essence of the idea of independent reunification put forward by the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un.

The only way leading to reunification and national survival lies in joining our nation's efforts, while thoroughly rejecting all sorts of interference in the internal matters of our nation and national reunification by any outside forces. Herein lies the invincible truth of the independent reunification idea put forward by the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, based on the scientific analysis of the historical lessons from the 70-year division.

Recently, the south Korean authorities have made impure solicitation of doing harm to their fellow countrymen, travelling here and there under the guise of

"reunification diplomacy". This is an extremely dangerous act of inviting the calamity of war again to the Peninsula.

The neighbouring outside forces should be aware that granting any unilateral solicitation, which was not agreed upon at all by the north and the south, will be an act of interference in the internal affairs of the Korean nation, and obstructing reunification thus will be construed as hostilities towards the Korean nation in the end. It is kindly requested that they be prudent in dealing with the question of the national reunification of Korea.

2. Peaceful environment and independent reunification

It is quite obvious that continued division constantly destroys the homogeneity of the nation and inseparably involves the possibility of the outbreak of war. This is the most dangerous point.

Distrust between the north and the south is growing serious and, worse still, the south Korean authorities are clinging to the military alliance with the US, hostile to the DPRK, thus heightening the military confrontation and increasing the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula.

Therefore, creating a peaceful environment on the Korean Peninsula is an indispensable requirement for a smooth realization of independent reunification by removing the danger of war and ending the interference by the outside forces simultaneously.

At the present stage, the most pressing task in creating a peaceful environment is to remove the impending danger of war and break the vicious cycle of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The large-scale war games staged annually in south Korea are the root cause of the actual danger of war and aggravation of tension on the Peninsula.

Even during the period of the worldwide cold war, the issues related to restriction and limitation of the scale and the character of military exercises were discussed as the most serious and prime topics in the dialogues and negotiations for the prevention of war between the East and the West.

The provocative and offensive military exercises staged by the US and the south Korean authorities against the DPRK are not only the most outspoken and specific demonstration of the hostile policy towards the latter but also the most clear expression of direct interference in the internal affairs of the Korean nation by the outside forces.

The respected Marshal Kim Jong Un said as follows: "The United States, the very one that divided our nation into two and has imposed the suffering of national division upon it for 70 years, should desist from pursuing the anachronistic policy of hostility towards the DPRK and reckless acts of aggression and boldly make a policy switch."

The US should see the change of the times and realize that the hostile policy towards the DPRK is nothing but an expired drug on the market.

Now is high time for the US to realize that the provocative war moves bring much more loss than profit to the Korean Peninsula.

Sixty years ago, the DPRK stood against the US with a rifle, but today it has full capability both to deter the latter's nuclear threat with nuclear power and to retaliate against the latter's nuclear provocations.

It is a new reality that the DPRK possesses a mailed fist to counter any kind of war to be chosen by the US.

If the US abandons its hostile policy towards the DPRK and shifts policy to respect the sovereignty, dignity and the will for independent reunification of the Korean nation, then the US can also enjoy respect from the Korean nation.

First and foremost, the US should demonstrate its will to change policy by stopping large-scale war exercises in south Korea and its vicinity.

Currently, the US is trying to mislead world public opinion, alleging that its war drills are "defensive" and "annual", but such sophism cannot befog the truth.

The war drills involve typical offensive moves, such as landing operations and commandos operations, supported by strategic nuclear strike means, with a target of "occupation of Pyongyang". Branding these war drills as "defensive" is nothing but cut-and-dried chop logic, calling black white.

However, the US describes these war drills as trivial daily affairs, alleging them to be "annually staged". Herein lies its sinister intention to make the DPRK become accustomed to its war drills, so as to make a crack in the deterrence and defence posture of the DPRK, while ceaselessly sharpening its hatchet.

The US insists that the military exercises have been conducted for several decades and there is no reason for stopping them. But it is absurd that one cannot correct wrongdoings because one has done it for a long time.

In 1992 and 1994, the US suspended joint military exercises in accordance with the agreement with the DPRK.

This shows that the US can suspend the war drills if it makes a courageous decision, regardless of how long it has staged them.

Once a peaceful environment has been created on the Korean Peninsula, independent reunification will be accelerated. Once reunification has been achieved, it will resolve one of the global hot spots and will further contribute to peace and prosperity in North-East Asia and the world.

It would be fortunate if the US were to look squarely at the reality and shift its policy. If not, the DPRK is fully prepared to counter the US with its own options.

A peaceful environment is really dear to the Korean people, but begging can never bring about real peace.

If the US loses the last chance of changing the hostile policy towards the DPRK, failing to understand the change of the times, its hostile policy will inevitably lead to a war.

If a war breaks out again on the Korean Peninsula after all, it will never be finished with an armistice.

The 70-year national division and the more than 60-year state of instability of neither war nor peace, confronting the world's biggest nuclear Power amid high tension for generations, can no longer be tolerated.

It is a burning sentiment of the Korean People's Army and a popular feeling of the Korean people to face a new war and stage a grand national reunification war if it is forced to do so.

Preparations are already being made to secure the economic interests of foreign countries even in case the reunification is realized through war, let alone the case of peaceful reunification.

It is a consistent stand of the DPRK to ensure that Korean reunification will contribute to the common prosperity of the region, including the neighbouring countries.

3. Improvement of inter-Korean relations and independent national reunification

The history of the 70-year national division is the very history of inter-Korean relations, full of twists and turns.

For the last 70 years, the north and the south have respectively kept following different paths of ideology and faith.

Inter-Korean relations cannot be improved if each side keeps seeking a confrontation of systems while absolutizing its own ideology and system.

Though the people-centred socialist system of our own style is the most advantageous one, the DPRK has never forced it on south Korea.

If they try to force their ideology and systems upon each other, they will never settle the national reunification issue in a peaceful way, but only bring confrontation and war. This is vividly proved by the history of the past 70 years of inter-Korean relations.

With 70 years of division, the Korean Peninsula is forced to stand on the horns of a dilemma of peace or nuclear disaster. The Korean nation is at the crossroads of reunification or permanent division. This reality demands a great turn and change in inter-Korean relations.

If the neighbouring States and countries concerned sincerely wish for peace on and reunification of the Korean Peninsula, they should observe the golden rule regarding north-south relations.

Inter-Korean relations are seriously affected by outside forces, due to the continued substantial rule of the US over south Korea.

During the discussions at the Yalta Conference, in February 1945, on the agenda of settling the colonies after the defeat of Japan, Roosevelt, the then President of the US, asserted that the Korean nation was not capable of building a sovereign and independent State, and that it should be placed under the guardianship of big Powers for 20 to 30 years.

The US disclosed its aggressive ambition of world domination by insulting the Korean nation in this way. And it is still administering its neocolonialism over south Korea even today, when 70 years have passed since the defeat of Japan, a period more than twice as long as that stated in Roosevelt's assertion.

The most sensitive and urgent subject relating to the Korean Peninsula issue is to ease military tension and prevent conflicts. However, the US still exercises command control over armed forces in south Korea.

Even though the return of military control has become the agenda on the table, the south Korean authorities are soliciting the US for its continued control.

It is the historical reality that the directions of inter-Korean relations have been influenced by the attitude and stand of the US.

The north and south have demonstrated their will and spirit of national reunification by drawing up a charter and great programme of national reunification, including the July 4 Joint Statement, the historic June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration.

Yet, the south Korean authorities would abandon any joint agreements, frightened that the US would say no, and on every such occasion would freeze and bring ordeals to inter-Korean relations.

If the US has the will to switch its policy, together with terminating joint military exercises with south Korea, it should not obstruct the Korean people's efforts to bring about a great turn and change in north-south relations.

The other neighbouring countries should also be aware of the complexity and sensitivity of inter-Korean relations and should fully ensure impartiality and prudence in their policies towards the Korean Peninsula.

First of all, they should not instigate the north and the south to confront each other.

Inter-Korean history records many separatists among the successive rulers of south Korea, the wheelers and dealers who lived only for the sake of his or her own group's interests, ignoring national interests by making rebellious solicitations to the outside forces.

Inciting such separatists and confrontationists and accepting their solicitations are dangerous moves that would harm not only others but also oneself.

If another war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula, its calamity and destructiveness will be totally different to that of the 1950s, and the range of the war will no longer be limited to the boundaries of the Korean Peninsula.

Nuclear warheads with explosive power tens of times greater than that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima will be flying across the Pacific Ocean, and nobody could predict which spark might misfall in which part of the Peninsula's vicinity during the turmoil.

It has been recorded in the history of world war that one of the notorious traditions of the US military is accidental bombing on purpose.

The change of the times, in which the nuclear map of North-East Asia has been drastically modified, clearly shows that it is favourable to the basic interests of all countries in the region to ease the inter-Korean confrontation fundamentally and to bring about a great turn and change in north-south relations towards reconciliation and cooperation.

At the current stage, in order to bring about this great turn and change, both parties are recommended to lower their own colours, stop arguments for and against and treasure the agreements already agreed upon by the north and the south and implement them one by one.

The neighbouring countries are also kindly advised to respect the inter-Korean agreed matters, while not lending their ears to one-sided solicitations. Encouraging only the ways and efforts for coexistence and co-prosperity will be of support to the Korean nation.

It is the firm will of the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un to write a new history by bringing about this great turn and change.

Upholding the idea of national reunification clarified by the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, the Korean People's Army and the Korean people will join the efforts of our nation and definitely realize the independent reunification of the nation.

12 August, Juche 104 (2015)
Pyongyang